



# 1995-96 KIRIS OPEN-RESPONSE ITEM SCORING WORKSHEET

## Grade 11 — Social Studies Question 4

The academic expectations addressed by this item are:

**2.15 Students can accurately describe various forms of government and analyze issues that relate to the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.**

**2:20 Students understand, analyze, and interpret historical events, conditions, trends, and issues to develop historical perspective.**

The core content assessed by this item includes:

- Governments derive their power from different sources.
- Different forms of democratic government preserve and protect the rights and liberties of their constituents through different means.
- Cause-and-effect relationships can be analyzed by looking at multiple causation, the importance of the individual in history, the influence of ideas and beliefs, and the role of chance.

### 4. Roots of the American Political System

The roots of the American political system are based on many ideas and practices that originated in Europe. Some of these ideas and practices are listed below.

English common law - based on custom

Magna Carta - no one is above the law

John Locke - people are born with natural rights

Montesquieu - separation of power

Discuss the basic political principals that are important to each item listed, and describe how those principles are part of American government today.

## SCORING GUIDE

Score	Description
4	Student accurately discusses the basic political principles associated with all four of the ideas listed, and describes how those principles have come to be part of American government today. Student uses relevant examples to demonstrate a depth of understanding of the historical importance of these principles.
3	Student accurately discusses the basic principles associated with at least three of the ideas listed, and describes their part in American government today. Student demonstrates a general knowledge of the importance of these principles. Some historical details may be incorrect.
2	Student discusses the basic principles associated with at least two of the ideas listed. Description of their part in American government today is weak.
1	Student discusses the basic principles associated with only one of the ideas listed; description of its part in American government today is missing or incorrect.
0	Response is incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	Blank/no response.



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE

## GRADE 11 SOCIAL STUDIES

### Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student fully and accurately describes the basic political principles of the four ideas listed in the question.

Student's response is well-written and organized, and uses the appropriate terminology.

Student's response uses examples that show a comprehensive knowledge of the historical connections between English government and American government today.

The American political system is grounded in ideas and practices from Europe. Each one is important and still play a major part in America today.

The English common law is based on custom. This means that decisions that are made in the court of law are passed down to other courts having to make similar decisions. This is important so that when a ruling is made about a case and later a very similar case comes up again the decision from the first can be the basis for the second ruling. This happens with the American Supreme Court, they make a decision, and lower courts refer back to it.

The Magna Carta is where no one is above the law. This protects everyone in the United States. It means no matter who you are or what your crime you have done you will be punished.

John Locke states that people are born with natural rights. These rights are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. The natural rights ensure people with freedom and contentment. Montesquieu is separation of power. The protects the people from getting a leader or group taking over and ruling them. This is an example of the United States checks and balances. Every branch of the government "checking" each other to "balance" power.

The American political principles are rooted in the European ideas and practices. All of them have been effective and help create the American government as we know it today.

Student's response shows insight into the benefits of a government based on a "checks and balances" system.

Student shows an in-depth understanding of how cause-and-effect relationships can be analyzed through multiple causation, the importance of the individual in history, and the lasting influence of ideas and beliefs.

Student's response reflects knowledge of how governments derive their power from different sources.



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE

## GRADE 11 SOCIAL STUDIES

### Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

Student describes three (Magna Carta, Locke, Montesquieu) of the four principles underlying the democratic form of government in the United States.

Student's response contains some generally correct information, but lacks a strong connection to the historical and philosophical roots of American government.

English common law-based on customs is important because there should be different laws for different customs. If everyone was forced to abide by our set of laws in Europe, U.S., Africa, it would be destiny. Magna Carta = no one is above the law is important because it lets you know no matter who you are you cannot escape law. Whether you black, white, rich, poor, fat or skinny, you must obey laws. John Locke = people are born with natural rights is important because it doesn't allow law to take over. You are entitled to the pursuit of happiness. Montesquieu seperation of power is good, because if one person has all the power, than they have all control over everybody and everything. This applies in American government because some laws are based on common law. Also everyone is always persecuted when found guilty of a crime. And everyone has the right to the pursuit of happiness. Also separation of power, American government has the system of checks and balances.

Student's response reflects only a general knowledge of the importance of the principles.

Student's description of John Locke is confusing. It begins with a repetition of information provided in the question; is followed by an inaccurate statement ("it doesn't allow law to take over"); and is finished with a correct connection ("pursuit of happiness").



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE GRADE 11 SOCIAL STUDIES

## Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

Student generally describes three of the four principles listed in the question (“above the law,” “unalienable rights,” and “power is separated”).

Student’s examples are very weak, and presented in an unorganized way.

Student’s response revises and repeats information provided in the test question.

Much of these peoples philosophy is used in American government now. Customs are a huge part of government today, in America even the president isn’t above the law, there are unalienable rights in America today, the power is separated between these branches of government and leaders are chosen by the people. All of the principles above are derived from other peoples philosophy and are part of the American governmental rules. In conclusion, almost all of American government is taken from other people’s ideas and thoughts.

Student’s response does not reflect an understanding of the historical events and/or ideas that influenced American government.

## Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

Student generally describes one (“separation of power”) of four principles.

Student concludes his/her answer with a statement regarding monarchies. This shows a lack of understanding of the question and its purpose.

The political principles are very important in many ways. The English Common law will always be used because it was based on customs and we will always remember that significance. The Magna Carta is important because we still to this day us the principle, “no one is above the law.” John Locke was important because it is still used today. Whenever someone is borned in the U.S. it automatically has rights. The separation of power is important because it limits who has what powers, so not one or any group could have all the power. Monarchy is important because as long as you have people you will have a monarchy to have authority over the people.

Student rephrases the information provided in the question.

Student response does not make significant connections between English law and today’s American government.

# INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

## **Roots of the American Political System**

Examine the listed ideas and principles in current use in the governments of Britain and the United States. (If the U.S. political system is based on English ideas and principles, does that mean that the U.S. and Britain have identical political systems?)

Identify four important principles/ideas of government today and apply them to a newly formed country (pretend country).

Create political cartoons depicting key principles/ideas of U.S. government.

Analyze whether the ideals/principles of U.S. government have been achieved. What evidence can be cited to support the analysis.

Explore the earliest historical “roots” of democracy.

Write a new Magna Carta or natural rights statement for today’s use.